

University of Chicago Library

Guide to the Raphael Spurious Letters undated



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.SPURIOUSGRAPH
Title	Raphael. Spurious Letters
Date	undated
Size	0.25 linear feet (1 box)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
Abstract	The collection contains a three letters once attributed to the Italian Renaissance artist Raphael, but later determined to be forgeries. Also included are transcripts and notes related to the letters.

Information on Use

Access

The collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Raphael. Spurious Letters, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

Scope Note

The collection contains three letters once attributed to the Italian Renaissance artist Raphael (Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino 1483-1520.) Part of the 1891 Berlin Purchase that formed the foundation for the University of Chicago Library, the letters were originally believed to have been written by Raphael in 1515-1516. Though found to be spurious not long after their acquisition, the letters were retained as instructive examples of skilled forgeries.

Addressed to Lodovico di Canossa, Bishop of Bayeux, and Count Galeasso di Canossa, the letters discuss the completion and delivery of a painting believed to be the Madonna (la Perla), now attributed Giulio Romano rather than Raphael.

Transcriptions and descriptions of the letters may also be found in Goodspeed, Edgar J., *A Descriptive Catalogue of Manuscripts in the Libraries of the University of Chicago*, pp. 123-126.

The collection was previously part of the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection.

Related Resources

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/scrc/findingaids/topics.php>

Subject Headings

- Raphael, 1483-1520
- Raphael, 1483-1520 – Forgeries
-
- Forgery of manuscripts
- Manuscripts, Italian

INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder 1

Spurious Letters, undated

- Letter to Lodovico di Canossa, Bishop of Bayeux, MDXV (MDXIV, MDXVI possible)
- Letter to Count Galeasso di Canossa, April 30, 1516
- Letter to Count Galeasso di Canossa, October 23, 1516
- Transcripts/ Notes of letters, undated